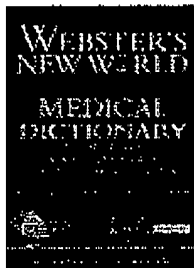


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Do you suffer from chronic congestion?

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Medical Dictionary[Learn more](#)**Definition of Cosmeceutical**

Cosmeceutical: A cosmetic product claimed to have medicinal or drug-like benefits. Cosmeceutical products are marketed as cosmetics, but reputedly contain biologically active ingredients. Examples include anti-wrinkle skin creams with ingredients such as alpha lipoic acid and dimethylaminoethanol and creams containing "cellular replenishment serum" that supposedly have "antiaging properties."

The term "cosmeceutical" was created in 1990s from cosm(etic) + (pharma) ceutic. The cosmetic industry uses the term but the US Food and Drug Administration does not recognize the term. While drugs are subject to a review and approval process by FDA, cosmetics are not. If a product has drug properties, it must be approved as a drug. But cosmeceuticals skirt this review and approval process.

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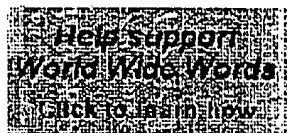
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COSMECEUTICAL */kɒsmə'sju:tɪk(ə)l/*

This is a blend of *cosmetic* and *pharmaceutical* which has appeared only in the nineties. It's a well-known term in the pharmaceutical business, which is still most commonly encountered in the USA, but is now increasingly being used elsewhere, and which is moving into more general contexts. It refers to a product which is marketed as a cosmetic, but which contains biologically active ingredients that have an effect on the user. Examples are anti-wrinkle creams, baldness treatments, moisturisers and sunscreens. They are causing problems world-wide for regulatory authorities, such as the American Food and Drugs Administration, which must decide when a product crosses the line between being merely a cosmetic and becoming a drug, the latter having much more stringent controls on its development, testing and supply. Much seems to depend on the labelling of the product: one describing itself as a deodorant would probably be classed as a cosmetic, whereas one labelled as an antiperspirant might well be classified as a drug because it claims to close the pores of the skin.

More prescription drugs are being sold across the counter; some may soon become "cosmeceuticals" or "nutriceuticals"—active chemicals sold as cosmetics or food.

[*Economist*, Apr 1995]

Photodamage, the deterioration of skin due to sun exposure and aging, is the biggest market segment for cosmeceuticals.

[*The Scientist*, Jan 1998]

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